

In the Specification:

At page 1, lines 7-8, please amend the paragraph as follows:

This patent application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application 09/503,881, filed February 14, 2000 (Now U.S. Patent 6,614,914), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

At page 1, lines 9-12, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The subject matter of the present application is related to that disclosed in co-pending application 09/571,422, filed May 15, 2000 (Now U.S. Patent No. 6,947,571), which claims priority to US Provisional Application No. 60/134,782, filed May 19, 1999. The above patent applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

At page 2, lines 5-9, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Several particular watermarking techniques have been developed. The reader is presumed to be familiar with the literature in this field. Particular techniques for embedding and detecting imperceptible watermarks in media signals are detailed in the assignee's co-pending application serial number 09/503,881 (Now U.S. Patent 6,614,914), US Patent Nos. 5,862,260, and 6,122,403, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

At page 9, lines 1-9, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The embedder software 100 may be adapted for different media signal types. As noted, particular techniques for embedding and detecting imperceptible watermarks in media signals are detailed in the assignee's co-pending application serial number 09/503,881 (Now U.S. Patent 6,614,914) and US Patent 5,862,260. Alternative watermark embedding technologies may be used as well. In an implementation for still images, the watermark message is repeatedly embedded in contiguous blocks of pixels of the still image. For print media applications, the watermark survives transformations associated with printing the watermarked image and later scanning the image as part of the process of capturing a digital image from which the watermark identifier is extracted.

At page 35, lines 13-21, please amend the paragraph as follows:

In Assignee's U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/302,663 (Now U.S. Patent No. 6,442,284) and 09/945,244 (Now U.S. Patent No. 7,013,021), we disclosed methods and apparatus to detect the presence of a digital watermark in an image by selecting regions within the image having a

high probability of containing the watermark. An image is examined to determine which regions of the image have characteristics indicating that there is a high probability that a watermark signal can be detected in that region of the image. The regions that have a high probability that a watermark can be detected (in contrast to all regions of the image) are examined to find watermark data. The following prioritizing methods are preferably employed after such image or data stream preprocessing.